

Minutes of the Tuesday, October 29, 2024 Park Slope Food Coop General Meeting

The monthly General Meeting (GM) of the Park Slope Food Coop (PSFC) was held at the Prospect Park Picnic House on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, beginning at 7:10 p.m. Approximately 300 members were in attendance, with several members who had to sit on the floor. A few weeks beforehand, an announcement about the scheduled meeting and the agenda were posted on the PSFC website, foodcoop.com, inviting members to participate. Meeting materials were made available to all Coop members by email before the meeting. Chair Committee members Daniel Hegwood and Charlie Rogers served as chair and secretary.

Open Forum

Topics raised by members included home delivery for disabled members, a petition being circulated on boycotting Israeli products, applying for a seat on the Agenda Committee and how the Agenda Committee handles agenda item submissions, a question on whether staff can step in if a member needs to report an incident of being harassed by another member, and another question about whether training is available for members on food allergies and the proper handling of food products. The meeting discussed the open forum items.

Financial Report and General Coordinators' (GC) Reports

General Manager and treasurer Joe Holtz answered questions posed during open forum and presented a financial report, referring to notes and statements for the 36-week period ending 10/6/24. Joe also discussed "Base Mark-up for FY2026 beginning Monday, February 3, 2025," the annual report on the base mark-up percentage for the next fiscal year, which had been distributed to members prior to the meeting. GC Lisa Moore made a report on Joe Holtz' retirement in June 2025 and the search process to find a new General Manager. The meeting discussed the reports.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Agenda item 1 – Election: Personnel Committee

Personnel Committee Member Jean Callahan described the purpose of the committee and introduced Members Sonjia Hyon, Valerie Vadala and Steve Jenkins who were all running for a seat on the committee. Each candidate addressed the meeting and answered questions. The meeting voted by paper ballot. Election results: Sonjia received 195 yes votes and 67 no votes. Valerie received 163 yes votes and 98 no votes. Steve received 252 yes votes and 27 no votes. All 3 candidates were elected to 3-year terms on the Personnel Committee.

Agenda item 2 – Election: Agenda Committee

Agenda Committee member Dominique Bravo explained the work of the committee and introduced David Warren, who was running for reelection. David addressed the meeting and answered questions. The meeting voted by ballot to reelect David to a 2-year term on the Agenda Committee. Election results: David Warren – 187 yes, 73 no

Agenda item 3 – Proposal: Vote on Authorizing a Masking Referendum

Member David Bartner introduced the item and the meeting discussed it before a vote by ballot was held. The item description that was published in the GM agenda is inserted below in italics. The ballots that were prepared for the vote were misprinted, causing confusion at the meeting. Instead of what appeared in the GM agenda (see below), the ballot text asked people to vote on whether or not masking should be voluntary. The chair instructed members to disregard the way the text appeared

or cross it out, and simply write yes or no to indicate their votes on whether to hold a referendum as stated in the proposal. The voting results were 92 yes and 215 no. The proposal on holding a referendum on masking failed.

Proposal description published in the GM agenda:

Proposal: Masking at the Coop should be voluntary and not required on two days per week as decided at the October 2023 General Meeting. Any future decision to require masking must be decided by a referendum distributed to all eligible Coop members.

Text of the proposed referendum:

◇ **Yes, I agree masking should be voluntary, and any future decision on masking should be decided by referendum.**

◇ **No, I do not agree that masking should be voluntary. The Coop should maintain its current masking policy.**

Presentation of Minutes

Coop secretary Elizabeth Tobier presented the minutes of the September 24, 2024 GM, which were approved by general consent.

Board of Directors' Meeting

Brandon West chaired the Board of Directors' meeting. Five board members were present: Tess Brown-Lavoie, Joe Holtz, Tim Hospodar, Keyian Vafai and Brandon West. Imani Q'ryn was absent. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on the minutes of the September 24, 2024 GM. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on item #1, Personnel Committee Election. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on item #2, Agenda Committee Election, except Tim, who abstained. All members of the board present voted in favor of accepting the advice of the members on item # 3, Proposal on Authorizing a Masking Referendum.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.



Elizabeth Tobier, Secretary
Park Slope Food Coop
Brooklyn, NY
October 30, 2024
(Approved by the December 3, 2024 PSFC GM)